

INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL
FOR THE FAR EAST

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, et al)

vs)

ARAKI, Sadao, et al)

AFFIDAVIT

DEPONENT: MATSUYAMA, Tsunejiro

I, MATSUYAMA, Tsunejiro, make oath and say as follows:

I live at 835 Sendagaya 5-Chome, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo. I am an agriculturist by occupation and am a permanent member of the Nippon Kirisutokyo-Dan (The Japan Christian Association), an elder of the Reinenzaka Church, and Chairman of the committee for building up Christian settlements in Hokkaido.

Since 1920 I have been elected a member of the House of Representatives seven times, during which I was a Parliamentary Councillor for the Overseas Affairs Minister and the Vice Minister of the Navy.

As General ARAKI and I hail from the same district, we were familiar with each other on that account. From the time when he was Minister of War and I a member of Parliament, we became more intimate.

Later we associated with each other more intimately through HIBIKI, Shinryo who was our senior from the same native district and who devoted his later life to Christian mission work.

Let me speak of Mr. ARAKI's attitude toward religion. Some people said he was narrow-minded and stubborn in his earnest defense of the national structure, but it was a great mistake. He attached importance to the fact that the moral of our national constitution was much in conformity with the law of nature and emphasized that the KODO (The Imperial Way) would reject any suppression or coercion. From his spiritual point of view he was especially earnest in defending religion. Though he and his family were adherents to Buddhism, he made no discrimination about sects of religion. His fundamental conception of piety and religion was that piety towards God was the common idea of all mankind while religion was the way in which man served God. Therefore, concerning religion he had a fair attitude that freedom of religion should be guaranteed to any man at any place.

Old HIBIKI, Shinryo and I made a plan to propagate Christianity abroad, that is, in Korea and Manchuria. Mr. ARAKI afforded us hearty assistance from the beginning to the end. He wrote a letter of introduction to the South Manchuria Railway for us. It enabled us to get a church building at Mukden. I am still thankful for it.

From my knowledge of him while I was a Diet Member, his policies and opinions were sound and moderate. But he firmly stood for justice. He made perfection of character the first requisite, always insisting on the importance of sincerity and gratitude in international as well as domestic affairs. On that account, however, some people were dissatisfied with him, and many abuses were directed upon him, to which, however, he paid little attention saying that justice would prevail after all. But this appears to have affected adversely his political career.

MATSUYAMA. Tsunejiro

Subscribed and sworn to before the under-signed officer
by the above-named MATSUYAMA, Tsunejiro, at the War
Ministry Building, Tokyo, Japan, on this _____ day of
August 1947.

Ref Doc 1913

not used

近東國際軍事裁判所

亞米利加合衆國其他

對

荒木貞夫其他

宣誓供述書

供述者 松山常次郎

自分義我國ニ行ハルル方式ニ從ヒ先ヅ別紙ノ通り宣誓
ヲ爲シタル上次ノ如ク供述致シマス。

一 私ハ松山常次郎ト申シマス。現在東京都澁谷區
千駄谷五丁目八三五番地ニ住ンデ居リマス。

職業ハ農場經營ヲ致シテ居リマス。又日本基督
教日常議員、豐南板橋會長、北海道基督村建
設委員長ヲ致シテ居リマス。

一 私ハ大正九年以來衆議院議員當選七回、其間外
務參與官及ヒ海軍政務次官ヲ致シマシタ。

一 私ト荒木大將トノ關係ハ鄉黨ノ級故關係デ慇懃
デアリ又私ハ代議士トシ大將ハ陸軍大臣トシテ
ノ時ヨリ別懸デアリマシタ。

其後鄉黨ノ先輩ニテ基督教傳導ニ晩年努力シテ
居タ日西信亮氏ヲ通シテ一居親シク交際シテ居

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マシタ。

一 宗教ニ對スル荒木氏ノ態度ニ就イテ申シマスレ
バ世間デハ同氏ハ國體護持ニ熱心ノ餘リ偏狹デ
頑固ノ様ニ云フ者モアルガ大ナル誤デアル。同
氏ハ我國體ノ教ヘハ返メテ自然ノ理法ニ合シ居
ル點ヲ大切ナ事トシ壓迫トカ無理トカハ臆道デ
ナイト強調シ特ニ精神上ヨリ宗教保護ニハ熱心
デ彼自身ノ家ハ佛教デアルガ何等差別ノ考ヘラ
有セズ敬神ト宗教トノ根本理念ニ就イテモ敬神
ハ一貫シタ人類ノ通念デアリ宗教ハ神ニ仕ヘル
ノ道デ東西南北何レヨリスルモ各人ノ信仰ニ任
スベキモノトサレテ返メテ公平ナ態度デアリマ
シタ。

一 自分ハ日匹信亮翁ト共ニ外地ニ基督教布教ノ計
畫ヲ行テ朝鮮、滿洲ヘノ布教ノ計畫シタガ荒木
氏ハ終始熱心ニ援助ヲ與ヘラレ滿鐵等ヘモ自ラ
手紙ヲ認メテクレ其爲メ奉天ニ於ケル教會堂ノ
家屋入手モ出來タ様ナ次第デ今モ感謝シテ居ル。

一 代議士トシテ自分ノ知ル範圍デハ政策モ所論モ
穩健デ正義ニハ非常ニ強烈ナ態度ヲ取ルガ内外
ニ對シ常ニ信義ヲ重ンジ恩義ニ報ユベキヲ説キ
人格ノ養成ヲ第一義トセラレテ居タ。其爲メニ
一部カラ嫌ハストセラレテ居タ。俗論ノ中傷モ

Def Doc 1913

隠分アツタガ餘リ氣ニセズニ正義ノ前ニハ敵ナ
シト捨テ、置カレタ、從ツテ政治的ニハ隠分損
ヲサレテ居タ様デアル。

昭和二十二年（一九四七年）三月十二日於

澁谷區千駄ヶ谷五丁目八三五番地

供述者 松山常次郎 [印]

右ハ當立合人ノ面前ニテ宣誓シ且ツ署名捺印シタ
ルコトヲ證明シマス。

同日 於同所

立合人 菅原 裕 [印]

宣 誓 書

良心ニ從ヒ眞實ヲ述べ何事ヲモ誤秘セズ又何事ヲ
モ附加セザルコトヲ誓フ

(署名捺印) 松山常次郎 [印]